

## **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS;**

1. A system for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel arrangements, the system comprising:

a data storage device;

a booking engine;

an output device;

a processor programmed to:

maintain in the storage device a database of user profile information including information regarding air travel booking preferences, car booking preferences, hotel booking preferences and personal preference air travel ratings,

receive a travel request input including travel request data gathered from a user's calendar application,

use the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including airline, hotel and rental car reservation information,

automatically create a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including:

automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate

airports and full fare automobile upgrades,  
automatically executing a car booking process for selecting,  
and  
automatically executing a hotel booking process,  
submit the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel  
request query,  
submit the travel request query to a travel distribution system for  
retrieving air, car and hotel availability information,  
receive from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel  
availability information and create a suggested travel itinerary,  
output for display on a user display device the suggested travel  
itinerary,  
allow manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary,  
accept manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary; and  
process data from the confirmed travel itinerary for automatically  
creating and storing appointment events in a user's calendar application.

2. A method for automatically planning, booking and calendaring travel  
arrangements, the method comprising:

maintaining in a computer storage device a database of user profile  
information including information regarding air travel booking preferences, car  
booking preferences, hotel booking preferences and personal preference air travel  
ratings;

receiving a travel request input including travel request data gathered from  
a user's calendar application;

using the stored user profile information and the travel request data to automatically formulate a travel request in response to the travel request input, the travel request including airline, hotel and rental car reservation information;

automatically creating a travel query file by applying business rules to the travel request, including:

- automatically executing an air booking process based on at least two categories of user preference information selected from the group of categories of lowest price, arrival/departure time, airline, non-stop, duration, alternate airports and full fare automobile upgrades,
- automatically executing a car booking process for selecting, and
- automatically executing a hotel booking process,

submitting the query file to a booking engine for creating a travel request query;

submitting the travel request query to a travel distribution system for retrieving air, car and hotel availability information;

receiving from the travel distribution system the air, car and hotel availability information and creating a suggested travel itinerary;

outputting for display on a user display device the suggested travel itinerary;

allowing manual changes to be made to the suggested travel itinerary;

accepting manual confirmation of the suggested travel itinerary;

automatically creating and storing appointment events in the calendar application using data from the confirmed travel itinerary.

